PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON

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VOLUME 19. No. 7, 1954

ORDINARY MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER, 1954, at 5.30 p.m.

AGENDA.

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6th October, 1954.
2. Recommendations of candidates for Fellowship. First reading.
3. Recommendations of candidates for Fellowship. Second reading.
4. Announcement of election of new Fellows.
5. Additions to the Library. [See p. 36.]
6. Admission of Fellows.
7. Papers accepted for publication in the *Transactions*.
8. Exhibits.

   As the December meeting will be devoted to exhibits and brief communications, Fellows are requested to reserve any exhibits that are not urgent until that meeting (1st December).

9. Communications.

Dr. C. B. Williams, F.R.S.

Autumn Insect Migrations in the Pyrenees.

[ABSTRACT.]

Dr. David Lack observed southward autumn migrations of Lepidoptera, Odonata and Diptera crossing the Pyrenees in 1950. Since then similar movements have been seen nearly every year by ornithologists and entomologists. In the autumn of 1953 a small party of entomologists spent four to six weeks in various parts of the Pyrenees, and on the Mediterranean coast just to the north. Insect movements were seen on almost every fine day from mid-September to mid-October, and were still in progress on the last day of observation. A description of the localities will be given.

Mr. J. F. Burton.

Insect Migration in the Gironde and Landes.

[ABSTRACT.]

In October, 1953, a visit was made to the coast of the Gironde and Landes in S.W. France to observe bird and insect migration. Observations were also made on the large lakes a few miles inland. Large numbers of insects (Lepidoptera, Syrphids and some Odonata) were seen migrating to the south on the coast, while inland the generally smaller movements were mainly south-west. This suggests that the insects flying south-west inland are deflected south on reaching the coast and form a concentrated stream.

It is hoped that Mr. C. D. Putnam, Mr. J. H. Gray and Mr. M. Locke will also describe their observations in 1951 at the Port of Venasque, near Luchon.

TEA will be served in the Library before the meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 7TH OCTOBER, 1954.

Professor P. A. BUXTON, C.M.G., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Present : 84 Fellows and 18 Visitors.

Before the meeting formally opened the President announced that Sergeant Campbell was resigning after fourteen years' service with the Society and wished him every success for the future.

The President announced that Council had arranged to carry out some improvements for the greater comfort of Fellows in the meeting room. A system of forced ventilation was being installed in the very near future and more seating benches would shortly be delivered, after which it was intended to recondition the present benches.

The President also called attention to the notice in the last issue of *Proceedings Series C* reminding Fellows that the Society is able to reclaim tax paid by Fellows who pay United Kingdom Income Tax at the full standard rate on the amount of their annual subscription. He expressed the hope that all Fellows who pay tax at this rate, and had not already done so, would complete the deed of covenant enclosed with the agenda paper recently circulated.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in York on 24th July were confirmed and signed by the President.

The names of the following candidates for election were read for the first time : Mr. Nazir Ahmad ; Mr. George James Ashby ; Professor C. M. Biezanko ; Mr. Ian Arthur David Byres ; Mr. Hahn W. Capps ; Professor R. E. Crabill ; Mr. Michael Peter Gooseman ; Mr. Sat Prakasch Gurwara ; Mr. Joseph Arthur Hardman ; Mr. Richard Owen Hughes ; Professor Alexander Barrett Klots ; Mr. Guido G. Lanfranco ; Mr. Ivor Lansbury ; Mr. Philip Makings ; Mr. Michael Hill Robinson ; Mr. Michael Anthony Salmon ; Mr. Geoffrey George Edgar Scudder ; Dr. Ian Walter Boothroyd Thornton ; Dr. Erach Jehangirji Vevai.

For the second time (taken as read) : Mr. Cedric Vivian Adams ; Sir Eric Cecil Ansorge, C.S.I., C.I.E. ; Miss Janet Mary Brown ; Mr. Richard Cecil Chandless ; Professor Douglas Mackenzie Davies ; Mr. Robert Kennedy Farmer ; Dr. Mary Fielding ; Miss Barbara Elizabeth Harris ; Mr. Mukundray Ratilal

Joshi; Mr. Chakrapani Kandula; Mr. Ram Ji Das Khare; Mr. Rattan Lal; Mr. Donald Macfarlane; Mr. Kafiz Abdul Qayyum; Mr. John Riley; Mr. Douglas John Taylor; Mr. Gopal T. Tonapi.

The Secretary read the names of the following newly elected Fellows of the Society: Professor Brian John Marples, Department of Zoology, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand; Mr. Arturs Neboiss, M.Sc., 16, Pyalong Avenue, Heidelberg, N. 22, Victoria, Australia; Mr. George Arthur Nixon, 27, Heyscroft Road, Withington, Manchester, 20; Mr. Somasekhar Pillay, Department of Entomology, Fernald Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass., U.S.A.; Mr. Frederick Matthew Speed, 149, 45th Avenue, Apartment 5, Lachine, P.Q., Canada; Miss Helen Louise Trembley, Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, National Microbiological Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Maryland, U.S.A.

Thanks were voted to donors of gifts to the Library since the last meeting.

Mr. David Fletcher signed the Obligation Book and was admitted a Fellow of the Society.

The following paper, accepted for publication in the *Transactions*, was read in title: "A descriptive catalogue of the genus *Melicta* Billberg (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) and its species, with supplementary notes on the genera *Melitaea* and *Euphydryas*," by L. G. Higgins.

Mr. W. V. Harris exhibited two nests of a species of *Apicotermes* brought back from Angola by Mr. Exell of the Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), and now shown by kind permission of Mr. Riley. Mr. Harris said that *Apicotermes* is not a genus of especial interest either taxonomically or morphologically, but its behaviour as shown in the nests constructed by the various species is unique. The complexity of design, and more especially the progressive development in the design of *Apicotermes* nests is truly remarkable. These nests are built of clay; they are sub-spherical, reaching about 40 cm. in height; they are built below ground at depths varying from 20 to 65 cm.; they do not touch the surrounding soil, being separated either by an annular gap of 4 to 5 cm. or by a layer of sand of the same width. The main architectural differences in the nests lies in the nature and arrangement of the pores and protuberances which decorate the outer wall. Inside, the nests are made up of a number of horizontal "floors" supported by pillars which provide a system of intercommunication as ramps leading to holes in the floor above.

The example shown was of the more simple type described by Desneux in his monograph (1952)* as the "nest with gargoyles," as the termite was not then known. Here the pore is a simple hole in the wall ornamented externally with a "gargoyle." The next stage is the development of a dilation or chamber within the thickness of the wall. Then these chambers coalesce to form a series of annular galleries in the wall with openings internally and externally which cease in time to coincide. The final stage is a wall without pores either inside or out, but with galleries regularly arranged inside. In no case are the pores of a diameter sufficient to permit the passage of a termite.

Apicotermes nests are known mainly from the Belgian Congo, though one or two have been collected in French Equatorial Africa and French Guinea.

On behalf of **Mr. R. W. Lloyd, Dr. A. M. Easton** exhibited a collection of some 360 specimens made by Mr. Tom Bourdillon in the course of the British Nepal Expedition, 1952. Apart from a few spiders, the collection consisted chiefly of Coleoptera, particularly those found in association with plants and flowers, such as Lamellicornia, Phytophaga, Sternoxia and Malacodermata. Hemiptera were also well represented. The *Meligethes* would be studied by Dr. Easton, the Coccinellidae were being despatched to Dr. Kapur of the Zoological Survey of India, whilst the remainder would be presented to the British Museum.

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* Desneux, J., 1952, *Ann. Mus. Congo belge*, **17**: 98 pp. 8vo.

Mr. R. L. E. Ford exhibited a series of photographs of entomologists of an earlier generation, with the apparatus of their day.

Dr. F. I. van Emden made a short communication on *Lytta vesicatoria* L. He said a female *Lytta vesicatoria* L. was found by Mrs. E. J. Bale in her kitchen at "The Ranch," Owermoigne, Dorchester, on 16th August, 1954. It was handed alive to Mr. R. F. Dalton, Assistant Curator of the Dorset County Museum, and laid a clump of eggs during the following night. The eggs retained by Mr. Dalton hatched from 16th to 18th September. The adult is now in the collection of Dr. C. D. Day. The Dorset County Museum contains specimens from Wood Street, Wool; East Lulworth; and Burton, all collected in June, according to Mr. R. F. Dalton, who provided the preceding information.

Dr. van Emden continued that eggs given to him hatched already on 7th-8th September, having apparently been kept at a somewhat higher temperature. Mr. G. E. J. Nixon was good enough to provide brood cells of a *Megachile* and honey-and-pollen mixture from a beehive. The young larvae paid no attention to the full-grown *Megachile* larvae and to their cells, but some of them accepted the honey-pollen mixture. A specimen now in the third stage and about 10 mm. long was shown alive. It was due to moult again on about 10th October, and to moult into the fifth instar, the immoveable hibernating "pseudochrysalis" or "hypnotheca," by the end of the month. The biology of *Lytta* differs from that of the other British Meloids by some primitive features, *viz.* the sixth instar being entirely free from the hypnotheca, the second to fourth being able to move about freely, and the first searching its source of food actively instead of being carried by bees. Moreover, there are indications that this species does not devour the egg or young larva of the host bee.

Dr. F. L. Vanderplank showed and commented on a colour film entitled "Coconut Pest Ecology and Control in Zanzibar," an abstract of which appeared on page 27.

In complimenting Dr. Vanderplank on his film Mr. M. J. Way added that he had seen the work in progress and the results were most encouraging.

E. B. BRITTON, *Honorary Secretary.*

The next meeting will be held on 1st December, at 5.30 p.m.

Additions to the library.

Purchased.

Brauns, A. *Terricole Dipterenlarven.* 8vo. Göttingen, etc, 1954.

Beuret, Henry. *Die Lycaeniden der Schweiz.* 1. Teil. *Lycaeninae* (*Feuerfalter*). 8vo. Basel. 1953.

Presented.

King, W. V., *compiler.* Chemicals evaluated as insecticides and repellants at Orlando, Fla. *Agriculture Handbook* No. 69, pp. 397. 1954. [U.S. Department of Agriculture.]

In addition, separates have been presented by Mr. A. L. Capener; Mr. R. S. George; Dr. G. H. Satchell; Mr. C. E. Taylor; Dr. J. Ghesquière; Smithsonian Institution; Mr. P. D. Gabbutt; Dr. J. C. Martin; Mr. K. G. V. Smith; Mr. P. T. Haskell; United States Department of Agriculture; and Mr. J. F. Perkins.

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